

REMARKS

Claims 1, 21, and 26 are amended; new claims 27-28 are added; and claim 7 is canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 14-15, 18-19, 21, and 26-28 are pending.

The amendments to the claims, including new claims 27-28, are based on the application as originally filed, so it is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

In the office action, claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claim 7 has been canceled, and new claim 27 is added which includes the recitation of a portion of the subject matter of canceled claim 7. It is respectfully submitted that new claim 27 meets the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 7 are respectfully requested.

In the office action, claims 1, 14, 18, 21, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of McVicker; claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Kim; claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of McVicker and Crider et al.; and claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of McVicker and Eckels.

Claims 1 and 26 have been amended to recite that the cover of the present invention has a flexible material portion including means for securing the cover to the structure. In addition, claim 21 is amended to recite a method including the step of providing securing means on at least one of the flexible material portion and the structure for securing the cover to the structure.

In addition, new claim 27 is added which includes such a flexible material portion including means for securing the cover to the structure. Claim 28 is added which recites a retractable cover for covering a structure, with the structure including securing means, and the cover including a flexible material portion secured to the structure by the securing means thereof.

None of the cited art discloses or suggests every element, step, or feature of the claimed invention, since none has a cover with a flexible material portion including means for securing the cover to the structure, either on the flexible material portion of the cover, as in independent claims 1, 21, and 26-27, respectively, or on the structure, as in claim 21; or a retractable cover for covering a structure, with the structure including securing means, and the cover including a flexible material portion secured to the structure by the securing means thereof, as in independent claim 28.

Accordingly, the claimed invention in pending claims 1, 14-15, 18-19, 21, and 26-28 is patentable over the cited art, so reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Entry and approval of the present amendment, including entry and favorable consideration of new claims 27-28, and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

In case of any deficiencies in fees by the filing of the present amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such deficiencies in fees to Deposit Account Number 01-0035.

Respectfully submitted,



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